The only original approach to the keep was by a flight of steps leading to the doorway of the great hall; on the right of this doorway is seen the window of the small oratory. The great hall is a noble apartment, without decoration. Leading from the great hall is an apartment formed in the thickness of the wall, called the King Chamber; in this is a fine Norman fireplace: the wall of the great hall is perforated with chambers and passages leading to galleries, from which an enemy might be annoyed even when in possession of the very centre of the stronghold. The other portions of the building are of remarkable interest, and it is gratifying to find that the enlightened taste of the present time is likely to convey this relic of the past, in much of its integrity, to future generations: the keep of New Castle is for the future to be placed in the possession of the Newcastle Society of Antiquaries, for the purpose of holding their meetings and containing their valuable collection of British antiquities.

THE LONDON FEVER HOSPITAL COMPETITION.

SIR,—Being very reluctant to enter into a discussion before the public on a matter which is in great measure personal, I have refrained from noticing any previous communications respecting the London Fever Hospital; but, in regard to that in your last number, as my silence may be liable to misconstruction, I beg briefly to state a few facts which I have ascertained from the secretary.

The proceedings of the committée, and their decision in favour of Mr. Mocatta's plan, were all superseded, in consequence of its being discovered that, in regard to the erection of the building, the authority and responsibility were not vested in them, but in the trustees, who had not hitherto interfered, and *they* were thus compelled to take the matter into their own hands. I learn further from the secretary, that the trustees, after a careful examination with professional assistance, and hearing the explanations of both parties, unanimously rejected Mr. Mocatta's plan, and adopted mine—both having been greatly modified. What influence the Earl of Devon might have had in that *unanimous* decision I know not; for, when other matters brought me into communication with his lordship, I studiously refrained from adverting to the subject; and I know of no grounds for attributing it to him any more than to the Duke of Somerset, another of the trustees, to whom also I have the honour to be well known professionally.

The event of the first decision shews how little Lord Devon's influence prevailed in the committee, where I understand there was a large majority of those present who voted against me; and, until it can be shewn that it was exercised with the trustees, I submit that there can be no ground for the imputation attempted to be fixed upon his lordship—the injustice of which is sufficiently repelled by his high character, and needs no refutation from me.

With respect to charges of plagiarism, &c., I feel that it would be impracticable to enter into a sufficient explanation in the columns of THE BUILDER; but, participating fully in the feeling evinced by Mr. Mocatta for upholding the honourable practice of our profession, and considering that a candid exposition before a professional tribunal is calculated to prove a wholesome check in cases of this sort, I readily accept his appeal to the Institute; and, with the same willingness that I acquiesced in the plan being presented to public notice in THE BUILDER, I am now ready to send all the drawings, with the instructions and documents, for the inspection of the council, or any member who may desire to examine them and judge for himself on the points in question.

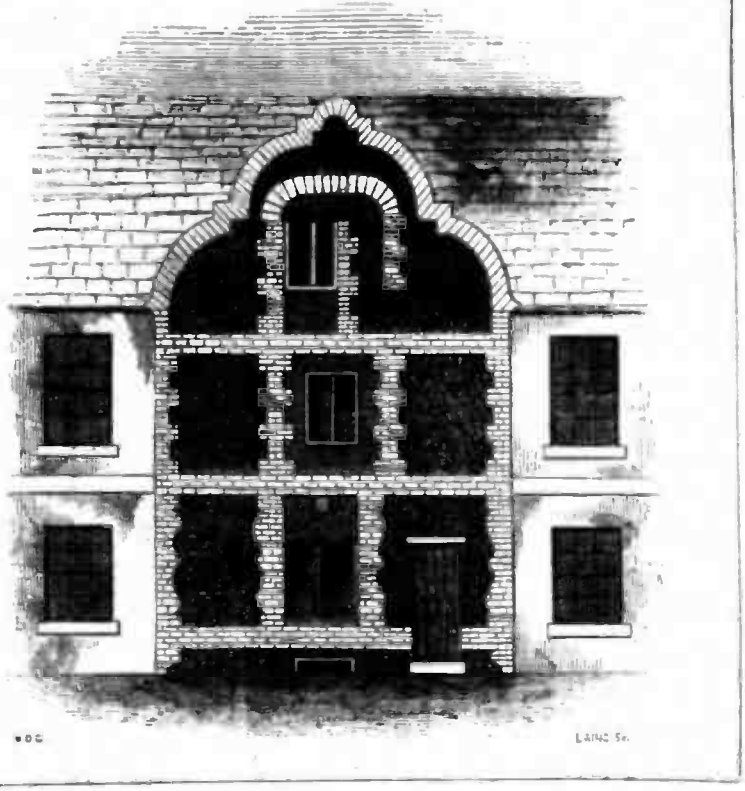
"Factis non verbis."

CHAS. FOWLER.

Gordon-square, August 29th, 1848.

*** We have received several other communications on this subject, including a strong view of the case in favour of Mr. Mocatta from Mr. Jacob Bell, but cannot find space for them. This is the less to be regretted, a tribunal for the decision of the question being now mutually agreed on.

HOUSE AT ST. LAWRENCE, ISLE OF THANET.



STREET ARCHITECTURE.

ANNEXED is a sketch of a cottage in the village of St. Lawrence, near Ramsgate, which may interest some of your readers.

The facings, strings, &c., are of red brick, and the wall itself of black flint. The whole has a very picturesque appearance. The house is tenanted by one or two poor families.

F. H. S.

RESPONSIBILITY OF BRIDGE-BUILDERS.

WESTON-SUPER-MARE COMPANY *v.* DREDGE.

IN this case, which was tried at the Nisi Prius Court of the Somerset Summer Assizes, on the 8th inst., the plaintiffs sued for repayment of 1,450*l.* paid to defendant, pursuant to agreement on a contract entered into by him for the formation of a bridge to connect Birnbeck with Weston, on terms, which, from the evidence of one of plaintiffs' own witnesses, 'would not allow' of the work being done according to the specifications, and the consequence of which undertaking was, as alleged, that "the masonry which was erected was not of sufficient strength, and the tower he had erected was entirely swept away by a storm, which was not a very violent storm." The whole work was to be completed for 10,000*l.*, by 1st May, 1848, but when that part of it which was done had been swept away, "they concluded that he was incompetent to carry out his contract, and after considering some different proposals respecting the reconstruction of the bridge, they determined to hold him to his agreement."

Amongst the witnesses called on the part of the plaintiffs were a builder, several masons, and a labourer, who all pretty much agreed, so far as they went, with the following evidence adduced by Mr. G. C. Ashmead, of Bristol, surveyor, who was of opinion there had not been a proper foundation,—that the stones of the foundation ought to have been cemented together to bear an erection of 40 or 50 feet; there was concrete described in the plans, but none in the work. From his observation he found that 10 feet were run up with dry masonry, instead of being cemented; according to the specifications, the outside facing should have been 6 feet thick; the masonry, however, was only from 18 inches to 2 feet thick. The plans showed the inside to be concrete, but there was merely rubble or loose stones; about 10 feet up was dry masonry, instead of cemented. The contract did not mention that it was to be cemented, but the plans did. It would be useless to cement after that: according to Mr. Fisher's evidence, and Mr. Dredge's own calculation, the value of the work done on 11th August, was 718*l.*, but he should deduct 60*l.* from that in consequence of the foundation not being cemented; he did not deduct anything for the absence of concrete, as Mr. Dredge's price would not allow for it: he also did not deduct for there being only two two feet of facing in thickness, as Mr. Dredge's price would not allow for six feet of facing. Taking into account what the witnesses had stated about the progress of the works, he should say at the time of their destruction (11th September) the value might be 72*l.* 8*s.*—Cross-examined: There was no appearance of concrete: if the work had been erected on dry land, away from the sea, he believed it would have fallen.

A Mr. Fisher had reported in August on the favourable state of the works, and on 11th September a second instalment would have been due to the defendant, who pleaded the refusal of the Company "to pay him a further sum of 1,050*l.* for work and value of materials on the ground."

Mr. Stone addressed the jury for the defendant, and called some witnesses. Mr. Crowder having replied, his Lordship summed up, and the jury returned a verdict for the plaintiffs, damages 1,400*l.*

SCULPTORS' AND STONE CARVERS' SOCIETY.—A number of operative sculptors and ornamental stone carvers have formed a society for the mutual advantage of its members, affording opportunities for study and improvement, which individually they could not obtain. They propose to establish a library immediately connected with the arts, form a collection of drawings and models, and obtain the delivery of lectures upon subjects bearing upon the pursuit. Mr. John Smith, of 37, Dartmouth-street, Westminster, is the secretary, and will give any information which may be required.

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